



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, September 28, 2026 at 6:30 PM
City of Rochelle Council Chambers—420 North 6th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Pledge to the flag and prayer were led by Mayor Bearrows.
- II. ROLL CALL:** Present were Councilors Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor John Bearrows. A quorum of seven were present. Also present: City Manager Zeke Jackson, City Clerk Rose Huéramo, and City Attorney Dominick Lanzito.
- III. PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC:**
1. Fire Prevention Week: October 4-10, 2026- Fire Chief, David Sawsville, scheduled to accept the proclamation but was called away to respond to an emergency.
 2. Public Power Week: October 4-10, 2026- Superintendent of Electric Operations, Blake Toliver, accepted the proclamation.
 3. Domestic Violence Awareness Month: October- Rebecca from Hope of Ogle County accepted the proclamation and spoke into the significance of this month.
- IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. Mayor's Report: The Mayor reminded those interested in running for Mayor or Council that candidate packets are available at the Clerk's Office.
 2. Council Members: None
 3. City Manager's Report: None
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTARY/CORRESPONDENCE:** AJ Marin from Burlington Junction Railway gave an update about a new storage contact, Project Gas, and on the UPNS merger. He then introduced Eric Pitcher from the Traffic Club of Chicago, who announced that they are coming to Rochelle to expose people from Chicago to what all is going on in Rochelle. Matthew Lennox, the Executive Director for Visit Northwest Illinois, made public comment related to paw paws. He spoke about the success of the Paw Paw festival and how much it has grown. Matthew mentioned how him and the City Manager have been discussing the possibility of planting paw paws in Rochelle since this region is prime for their growth. The paw paws point to a lot of promising opportunities and could make Rochelle an international hub for the fruit.
- VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:** None
- VII. BUSINESS ITEMS:**
1. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE with Recommendations:
 - a) Approve City Council Meeting Minutes - 9/14/2026
 - b) Approve Payroll - 8/17/2026 - 8/30/2026
 - c) Approve Payment Registers - 9/14/2026, 9/21/2026
 - d) Accept & Place on File- August FinancialsMotion made by Councilor Valdivieso, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"I move consent agenda items (a) through (d) be approved by Omnibus vote as recommended."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

2. **An Ordinance Accepting the Base Bid from Martin & Company Excavating and Rejecting All Other Bids for the 2026 1st Avenue and 9th Street Pavement Improvements.** The 2026 1st Avenue and 9th Street Pavement improvements project was identified in the 2026 CIP and is considered Phase 1 of street improvements along this route. The project will include new storm sewer drainage upgrades, to replace old deteriorated and undersized existing storm sewers, inlets and manholes along with new HMA pavement as well as curb and gutter replacement along portions of the street. Earlier this year sidewalks and much of the curb and gutter, along the southerly side of the street were replaced under the City's Sidewalk CIP. The project will extend from 9th Street to east of 2nd Street and along 9th Street from the UPRR to Lincoln Avenue. Intermittent road closures are expected in the Fall of 2026 during the initial underground storm sewer and curb replacement work while most of the paving work is expected to be completed in 2027. The above-mentioned project was advertised in the Rochelle Newsleader and on the City website. Bids were publicly opened and read aloud on September 23, 2026 at 10 am for the above referenced project. Separate bids were received as follows:
- Martin & Company Excavating submitted a bid for making the entire improvements in the amount of \$743,041.80
 - O'Brien Civil Works submitted a bid for making the entire improvements in the amount of \$775,755.55
 - Elliott and Wood Company submitted a bid for making the entire improvements in the amount of \$854,500.00

The lowest bid is approximately 3% higher than the Engineers' estimate of cost. The project is being funded with Sales Tax funds for infrastructure, and a transfer will be made to the 2026 CIP fund 36-00 to cover the City expenses associated with the project. Furthermore, given the favorable contract unit prices for multiple construction items it is recommended that approval be given to the City Manager and/or the City Engineer to negotiate additional work or contract change orders, not to exceed \$96,000, within the proposed bid contract prices to facilitate other improvements and upgrades to streets or other storm sewer systems adjacent to this project. It is anticipated that the construction project will be substantially complete by early June 2027. However, additional time will be granted for any City/RMU utility adjustments or additional work as may be added to the contract. City Engineer, Sam Tesreau, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move Ordinance 2026-52, an Ordinance Accepting the Base Bid from Martin & Company Excavating and Rejecting all other Bids for the 2026 1st Avenue and 9th Street Pavement Improvements, be approved."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

- VIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 7:02 P.M. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Valdivieso, **"I move the Council recess into executive session to discuss collective negotiating matters. Section (c) (2) and the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance and/or dismissal) of specific employee(s), Section (c) (1)."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

At 7:20 P.M. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, and seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **"I move the Council return to open session."** Voice vote all in favor.

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 7:21 PM. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move the Council adjourn."** Voice vote all in favor.